Mid term appraisal for quality Secondary Education

142. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken to implement the recommendations of the 'Mid Term Appraisal' of the current Five Year Plan in respect of providing quality Secondary Education;

(b) the steps taken for expanding quality secondary education in difficult areas;

(c) the manner in which the "difficult areas" are defined;

(d) the steps being taken to increase the rate of retention at secondary level of education in such areas;

(e) whether Government are encouraging the philanthropic bodies to set up secondary schools in these areas, if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the manner and the authority through which such philanthropic bodies are identified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Providing quality secondary education is a continuous process. The Central Government inter-alia have taken the following steps towards implementation of the recommendation of the mid term appraisal of the 10th Five Year Plan in respect of providing quality Secondary Education.

(i) National curriculum framework 2005 has been approved.

(ii) Steps have been taken by Central Board of Secondary Education to reduce exam related stress.

(iii) A scheme called ICT @ schools is being implemented to spread computer literacy and to enable computer aided education in schools.

(iv) Assistance is being provided for improving quality of science education and to impart environmental education under the scheme "Quality Education in Schools".

(b) to (f) The term "Difficult Areas" is neither used nor has been defined by the Ministry. It is primarily for the State Governments to take steps for expanding secondary education in unserved areas, to find ways to increase the rate of retention and to identify and encourage Non-Governmental Organisations including philanthropic bodies to set up secondary schools.

Illiteracy in the country

143. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present illiteracy rate of rural as well as urban women and men separately, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of adult illiterates living in the country;

(c) the reasons for such high illiteracy; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to make education for all by 2015 a reality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) A Statement showing illiteracy rate of men and women in rural and urban areas, State-wise, as per 2001 Census Report is enclosed. (*See* below)

(b) As per 2001 Census, literacy rate in India is 64.84% in 7+ age group.

(c) There are various reasons for such high illiteracy including poverty, lack of awareness about relevance of education, socio-economic factors etc.

(d) The Universalisation of Elementary Education and eradication of adult illiteracy form the two-pronged strategy for improving the literacy rate of the country. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a comprehensive programme for universalizing quality Elementary Education by 2010.

The National Literacy Mission (NLM) is entrusted with the target of achieving a sustainable threshold level of 75% literacy by 2007. The thrust area of NLM are improving female literacy in low female literacy areas, organizing projects for residual illiteracy in districts which have substantial